

VZCZCXRO3058  
RR RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHJA #0335 0570959  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 260959Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1593  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS COLL  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3604  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3025  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5912  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5380

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000335

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [ASEAN](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL THANKS SECRETARY CLINTON

12. Post has received a letter and gift from ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan to Secretary Clinton thanking her for her visit to the ASEAN Secretariat. The unedited text of the invitation letter is reproduced in full below. The original letter and the gift are being pouched to the Department.

13. Begin text of letter:

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ref: BERC/124/ER/US/Vol. 1/(010)

20 February 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I would like to thank you for visiting the ASEAN Secretariat on 18 February 2009. My staff and I are very grateful to you for taking time out from your official visit to Indonesia to make a historic visit to the ASEAN Secretariat.

Your visit to the Secretariat clearly demonstrated the seriousness of the US to re-establish the US diplomatic presence in this region and to robustly re-engage ASEAN in order to take our ties to a higher plane.

As a region, ASEAN - East Asia is ready, able and willing to work with the US in the search for solutions to global impasses, including bridging the cultural divide.

I warmly welcome the Obama Administration's commitment to launch its interagency process to pursue accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

I look forward to meeting you at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference and at the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum in July 2009 in Thailand.

Please accept, Secretary Clinton, the assurances of my highest consideration.

//s//

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan

End text.

14. Text of handwritten note:

Madam Secretary,  
Thanks for the honor and the friendship extended to all of  
us at the ASEAN Secretariat. All of my staff were excited  
and inspired with your presence. Thanks again.  
Surin Pitsuwan.

End text.

HUME